Gifted Education: Resources to Meet Your Needs

A list of professional materials available for borrowing from the Stewart Resources Centre – March 2013
The STF’s Stewart Resources Centre – CHECK US OUT!

In order to serve you better, we have compiled the following list of resources that directly address some of your professional needs. We hope you find this publication helpful, and we would be pleased to hear from you if you would like us to continue producing more specialized resource lists, or if you have suggestions on how we can improve our service to you. We want to serve you better!

We make it easy for you to use the Stewart Resources Centre:

- For schools outside of Saskatoon, we mail our resources directly to you and provide a postage-paid mailing label for you to use to mail the resources back to us. (Audio-visual resources are excluded from the Canada Post library mailing rate, so you will need to pay postage to return these items.)

- For schools in Saskatoon, your resources arrive at your school through the weekly inter-school mail delivery. Materials may also be returned to us using this courier system.

- You don’t need to know the exact titles for resources you need. Provide a topic and an approximate grade level at which you would like to use the materials, and we will do the rest!

- We are accessible 24 hours a day through the STF website: www.stf.sk.ca You may search our catalogue online or e-mail us your resource requests at: src@stf.sk.ca

- Call us! STF members may call the Stewart Resources Centre toll-free at 1-800-667-7762, ext. 6323, or we can be reached at 373-1660, ext. 6323 for local calls.

- Visit us in person! We are open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education – Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Summary: This book provides advice to educators, administrators, and parents of gifted and talented youth. The 29 practices included in this volume are the result of an extensive examination of educational research on what works with talented youth. The interest in culturally diverse and low-income learners, the means to identify talents, and the need for curriculum that appropriately challenges high-ability youth constitute just a few of the 29 practices. Each practice is organized into a chapter containing two sections: What We Know and What We Can Do.

Summary: The author explains the criteria for choosing appropriate reading for the child and describes ways to help deepen their understanding of both literature and language. Using examples from the author’s extensive experience, this book encourages the development of independent learning skills and will help parents and educators to create a personalized reading program for a gifted child at home or small groups of children in school. Photocopiable materials are included, along with samples of reading lists for different age groups.

Subjects: Curriculum planning. Language arts (Middle school). Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book includes units that ask students to develop strong personalities for their main characters while writing mysteries, to study Freud’s psychoanalytic theory and then analyze a classic novel using what they’ve learned, to focus on writing from a specific point of view, and to increase their appreciation for poetry by studying famous poets. Grades 6-8.

Summary: The authors offer higher-level thinking and reading strategies that promote achievement for all students, with resources to build collaborative literacy, stimulate creativity, develop richer comprehension, and more.

* Annotations have been excerpted from book descriptions provided by the publishers.


Summary: Eaton offers third- through fifth-grade teachers a resource of reading, writing, and communication projects that align with 21st century skills. She helps them differentiate instruction for gifted and advanced students, although they are adaptable for students of any level. Each page in the book has four open-ended project choices for individual students and small groups to choose from to fit their needs, ability level, and learning style. The projects can be used in class or for homework and relate to autobiography, researching and informing, novels, poetry, fairy tales, and nonfiction, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository communication.

Curriculum compacting: an easy start to differentiating for high-potential students / Reis, Sally M. Renzulli, Joseph S. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press, 2005.


Summary: Curriculum compacting is a differentiation strategy that incorporates content, process, products, classroom management, and the teacher’s personal commitment to accommodating individual and small-group differences.


Summary: This book gives you the nuts and bolts needed to design and implement a gifted program to maximize the benefits to students, teachers, schools, and parents. Chapters in the book include guidelines for: designing & implementing curriculum for pre-K through middle school; identifying & selecting the best teachers; creating the vital support networks among parents, school, and community; assessing the program's impact on children, parents, and teachers; and developing special programming for disadvantaged gifted students. The book offers several examples of different learning experiences that fall under the definition of a gifted program, as well as a chapter that outlines all of the essentials for starting a gifted program, including sample forms and letters.


Subjects: Teaching teams. Individualized instruction.

Summary: This book presents two approaches: universal design for learning (UDL) and a unique retrofit approach for accessing the general education curriculum to meet the learning styles of all diverse learners, including those who are gifted, students with disabilities, and English language learners. This reference provides teachers and administrators with: step-by-step guidelines for using UDL and the retrofit approach in differentiating instruction; multiple strategies for integrating differentiated lessons with collaborative planning and teaching; content lessons for elementary, middle, and high school students; effective techniques for effectively respecting cultural, economic, and linguistic diversity in the classroom; and more.

Differentiating the curriculum for gifted learners / Conklin, Wendy. Frei, Shelly.
Summary: This book provides answers to questions relating to best practices in gifted instruction. It not only addresses effective research-supported ways to differentiate instruction, but also explores the reasons why gifted students should be serviced and presents some of the most effective ways this can be accomplished.

371.95 R162
Educating gifted students in middle school : a practical guide (2nd ed.) / Rakow, Susan.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education (Middle school).
Summary: The focus of this book is on helping teachers, administrators, and parents to understand gifted middle school students, implement effective program models, define the role of the gifted teacher, identify best practices for the classroom, and apply curriculum ideas that are effective and research-based.

372.89 S974
Exploring people & cultures : authentic ethnographic research in the classroom / Sweeney, Mary Ellen. Walker, Brooke.
Subjects: Civilization – Study and teaching (Middle school). Culture – Study and teaching (Middle school). Social sciences – Study and teaching (Middle school).
Summary: This book provides teachers with tools and activities for conducting a classroom study of ethnic groups and cultures. Through the more than 30 ready-to-use, differentiated lessons, teachers will help students learn how to recognize the elements of culture; think critically; apply real-world research techniques in field experiences; identify behavioural patterns in modern-day cultures; and create, plan, and share their products in a student-led ethnography fair. Grades 5-8.

372.623 B645
Fables & folktales. Grades 6-8 : an interactive discovery-based language arts unit for high-ability learners / Blauvelt, Darcy O. Cote, Richard G.
Subjects: Creative writing (Middle school). Language arts (Middle school). Storytelling – Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Summary: In Fables and Folktales, a language arts unit, students learn about story structure, word choice, and folktales and participate in a writers’ workshop before sharing their own tales in a storytelling festival.

371.95 S725
How the gifted brain learns / Sousa, David A.
Summary: This guide gives elementary and secondary teachers the help they need to not only recognize and challenge their gifted learners, but also to support gifted students who underachieve. Acknowledging that students are often gifted in specific subject areas, the text includes chapters dedicated to talents in language, math, and the arts.

371.95 M121
Identifying and enhancing the strengths of gifted learners, K-8 : easy-to-use activities and lessons / Maccagnano, Ann.
Summary: Organized by skills, each chapter begins with analysis activities to immediately and informally assess students’ current skill development. Enhancement activities then extend and enrich the content of the everyday curriculum. Teachers can select and implement any number of appropriate learning experiences to improve students' skills in: reading, writing, and oral communication; creative and critical thinking; interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence; and mathematics and visual/spatial awareness.

371.95 I19
Identifying gifted students : a practical guide / Johnsen, Susan K.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book is designed for practicing professionals such as teachers, counselors, psychologists, and administrators who must make decisions daily about identifying and serving gifted and talented students. It is particularly useful to those educators who use multiple assessments with an increasingly diverse population.

371.95 I24
Igniting creativity in gifted learners, K-6 : strategies for every teacher / Smutny, Joan Franklin.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education (Elementary).
Summary: This resource helps elementary school teachers use creative methods to enhance gifted students’ learning and stimulate higher-level thinking, discovery, and invention. These strategies, activities, and examples help teachers: inspire students in reading, writing, social studies, mathematics, science, and the arts; tie creative processes to learning outcomes; incorporate technology into instruction where appropriate; and encourage students to explore new avenues for thinking and learning.

371.95 S622
Making great kids greater : easing the burden of being gifted / Sisk, Dorothy A.
Summary: This practical resource offers techniques, strategies, and lessons to help gifted students bridge the gap between their cognitive and social-emotional development. Showing how to support learners who may experience difficulties associated with excitation identified by psychologist Kazimierz Dabrowski, this resource: presents real stories of gifted students, includes teacher voices and vignettes, integrates research into each chapter to build a foundation for the suggested activities and strategies, and provides recommended reading lists and websites for further exploration.

371.95 S611
More units of instruction for gifted learners / Simons, Connie.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: Introduces five new units of instruction developed by veteran educators in the field of gifted education. These inter-disciplinary units will challenge and engage students while building and reviewing skills in math, science, language arts, and social studies. Students will enjoy experimenting with static electricity; exploring the properties of rocks, gems, and minerals; creating and presenting advertising campaigns; discovering and measuring cylindrical properties; and investigating and taking action on real-world issues. Grades 2-7.
Order in the court: a mock trial simulation: an interactive discovery-based social studies unit for high-ability learners / Blauvelt, Darcy O. Cote, Richard G.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education (Middle school). Trial procedure – Study and teaching (Middle school). Law – Study and teaching (Middle school).
Summary: This book presents lessons and activities for conducting mock trials, guides students to simulate their own courtroom trial and incorporates real-world courtroom roles and procedures. Grades 6-8.

The parallel curriculum in the classroom. Book 1: essays for application across the content areas K-12 / Tomlinson, Carol A.
Summary: Book 1 delves more deeply into the classroom application of the Parallel Curriculum Model, providing in-depth examinations of how to: design appropriate curriculum using the Parallel Curriculum Model; effectively apply focusing questions when planning for each of the parallels; modify the curriculum and classroom environment for students to learn from multiple perspectives; extend opportunities with the Curriculum of Identity; and plan curriculum and instruction using Ascending Intellectual Demand.

The parallel curriculum in the classroom. Book 2: units for application across the content areas K-12 / Tomlinson, Carol A.
Summary: Book 2 reflects a variety of Parallel Curriculum units spanning primary, elementary, middle, and high school levels of instruction and encompassing the disciplines of social studies, science, art, math, and language arts. Across each unit, the authors present a framework of three essential components in an effective Parallel Curriculum Unit: the big picture of grade level, subject, goals, and standards; the unpacking, or step-by-step explanation of the unit; and the reasoning behind the unit design.

Practical ideas that really work for students who are gifted / Ryser, Gail R.
Austin, TX: PRO-ED, 2003.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This is a tool for coordinators and specialists in gifted education and teachers in both general and gifted education classes to use to gather information about behaviours that may be indicative of giftedness. It provides teachers with practical strategies to assist in differentiating instruction for students who are gifted or who show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment.

Project-based learning for gifted students: a handbook for the 21st-century classroom / Stanley, Todd.
Summary: This book makes the case that project-based learning is ideal for the gifted classroom, focusing on student choice, teacher responsibility, and opportunities for differentiation. The book
guides teachers to create a project-based learning environment in their own classroom, walking them step-by-step through topics and processes such as linking projects with standards, finding the right structure, and creating a practical classroom environment.

371.95 B652
Ready, willing, and able: teaching English to gifted, talented, and exceptionally conscientious adolescents / Bloland, Dagny D.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education. English language – Composition and exercises – Study and teaching (Secondary).
Summary: Differentiation is a goal for teachers who believe in meeting every child’s needs through responsive teaching. Gifted, talented, and exceptionally conscientious adolescents (GTECs) have needs very different from those of other students - as well as from one another. The author describes how to mix proven strategies for differentiation with innovative instruction to help GTECs make the most of their learning, whether your classroom is officially labeled gifted, advanced placement, or honours, or sprinkled with extra-capable kids.

370.78 D637 2008
Seeking educational opportunities for the gifted: from community service to service learning / Chan, Laurie.
Saskatoon, SK: Dr. Stirling McDowell Foundation, 2008.
Summary: Teacher researchers asked the question: How does service learning affect the talent development of gifted students and their teachers?

371.95 S492
Serving gifted learners beyond the traditional classroom: a guide to alternative programs and services / VanTassel-Baska, Joyce L.
Summary: This book provides a concise and thorough introduction to the various types of out-of-school programming recommended and appropriate for gifted and advanced learners. Including overviews of mentoring programs, residential schools, summer opportunities, and distance learning, top scholars in the field of gifted education combine research and experience in this guide to alternative services for teachers, parents, and gifted education program directors.

371.95 T659
Smart in the middle grades: classrooms that work for bright middle schoolers / Tomlinson, Carol A. Doubet, Kristina.
Subjects: Middle school teaching. Gifted children – Education (Middle school).
Summary: The authors provide a solid rationale for meeting the needs of all young adolescents, guidelines for a curriculum that is responsive to the diversity that all middle level teachers encounter, and a set of instructional strategies especially appropriate for high ability and high potential students.

371.92 S636
Smart kids with learning difficulties: overcoming obstacles and realizing potential / Weinfeld, Rich.
Summary: This book guides parents and educators toward identifying and planning for smart kids with learning challenges so that they will reach their true potential. It deals with research and experience the authors have gained from working directly with students who are smart, but struggle in school. The authors present learning and teaching methods that have been applied successfully to both the gifted and talented and the learning-disabled populations.

371.95 S678
The social and emotional development of gifted children: what do we know? / Neihart, Maureen.
Summary: This resource offers an examination of the essential topics teachers, parents, and researchers need to know about the social and emotional development of gifted children. The book includes chapters on peer pressure and social acceptance, resilience, delinquency, and underachievement.

371.95 D354
The survival guide for teachers of gifted kids: how to plan, manage, and evaluate programs for gifted youth K-12 / Delisle, James R. Lewis, Barbara A.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book offers step-by-step strategies for developing a gifted education program or for enhancing an existing one, for identifying students, for planning programming, for evaluating your program, and for handling sticky issues.

371.95 R645
Teacher’s survival guide. Gifted education / Roberts, Julia L.
Summary: This book covers topics essential to gifted education teachers, including tips and strategies for recognizing and identifying giftedness, encouraging creativity, and offering the multiple opportunities and resources gifted kids need.

371.95 W767
Teaching gifted kids in today’s classroom: strategies and techniques every teacher can use (3rd ed.) / Winebrenner, Susan.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This is the definitive guide to meeting the learning needs of gifted students in the mixed-abilities classroom – seamlessly and effectively with minimal preparation time. Included are proven, practical, classroom-tested strategies and step-by-step instructions for how to use them. This new edition provides information on using technology for accelerated learning, managing cluster grouping, increasing curriculum rigor, improving assessments, boosting critical and creative thinking skills, and addressing gifted kids with special needs.

371.95 H645
Teaching gifted learners, book A: meeting the needs of gifted and talented students / Hill, Frances.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book covers identifying gifted and talented students, meeting the emotional, social and cognitive needs of these students, options for schools, and a guide for putting a program in action.
Teaching gifted learners, book B: the hidden gifted: meeting the needs of gifted students with learning disabilities / Hill, Frances.
Summary: This book will help teachers recognize gifted learners with disabilities (GLD) by understanding the causes and effects of the condition. It presents strategies to meet the emotional and social needs of GLD students by guiding teachers through the development of an intervention program.

Teaching gifted learners, book C: the hidden gifted: meeting the needs of gifted students who are underachieving / Hill, Frances.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book provides support and direction for recognizing gifted and talented underachieving (GTU) students. It provides guidelines for meeting the emotional, social, and learning needs of GTU students. There is separate information on girls, boys, diverse cultures and low socio-economic groups.

Teaching gifted learners, book D: gifted learner toolkit: planning and assessment for working with gifted student / Hill, Frances.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book contains the templates to assist teachers in creating, monitoring, and evaluating education provision for their gifted and talented students. It also contains templates that can be used to effectively support your school-wide gifted education program.

Teaching gifted students in the inclusive classroom / Riley, Tracy L.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: This book provides teachers with practical strategies for identifying and meeting the abilities and needs of gifted and talented students through differentiation in general classroom settings.

Teaching students with gifts and talents: a practical guide for every teacher / Algozzine, Bob.
Ysseldyke, James E.
Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: The authors offer educators helpful information for identifying gifted and talented students, and present effective instructional approaches – enrichment and acceleration – to ensure that these exceptional students are constantly challenged and engaged. Highlights include: a pretest and posttest to help readers assess their understanding of giftedness and how the needs of gifted and talented students are best addressed; cognitive, academic, communicational, physical, and behavioural characteristics that are associated with high-ability learners; effective instructional approaches and activities to keep gifted and talented students motivated and reaching ever-higher levels of achievement; and key vocabulary terms.
Summary: This guide encourages and enables teachers to identify gifted children as early as age four and create a learning environment that supports all students. Proven, practical strategies and techniques help you teach to multiple intelligences, compact and extend the curriculum, communicate with parents, and more.

Subjects: Chemistry – Problems, exercises, etc.
Summary: Students work to understand the concepts and definitions of physical and chemical change. The unit pays particular attention to highlighting the indicators of these changes, which students employ to develop data collection tables to use in the experimental phase. In a culminating authentic project, lab teams are challenged to design their own experiments that illustrate a physical or chemical change.

Subjects: Gifted children – Education.
Summary: The five in-depth units of study in this book cover everything from elementary geometry, to a study of slavery, to the inclusion of a media unit in the social studies curriculum. Worksheets, handouts, answer keys, and teacher guides are included with every lesson. Grades 2–8.

Subjects: Children with disabilities – Education. Special education.
Summary: Teaching and learning strategies have a profound effect on students with disabilities as well as on gifted and talented students. This resource for the classroom teacher covers: special education categories; identifying and working with special learners; special learners in the regular classroom; helping students use a variety of modalities to process, store, and retrieve information; effective teaching and learning strategies for at-risk students: grouping strategies, peer tutoring, computer-assisted instruction, and more; and differentiating content, process, and product for gifted students.

Subjects: Gifted children – Education (Middle school). Debates and debating – Study and teaching (Middle school). Language arts (Middle school).
Summary: This book uses debate to extend students’ abilities to analyze and interpret informational texts, strengthen students' reading strategies and fluency, and help students develop persuasive speaking and writing skills. Grades 6-8.